Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Permit Application Cover Sheet

This Permit Application Cover Sheet is intended to provide summary information and status to the public on permit applications for activities proposed to be conducted in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. While a permit application has been received, it has not been fully reviewed nor approved by the Monument Management Board to date. The Monument permit process also ensures that all environmental reviews are conducted prior to the issuance of a Monument permit.

Summary Information

Applicant Name: Carl Meyer
Affiliation: Hawaii Insitute of Marine Biology

Permit Category: Research
Proposed Activity Dates: June 1 2008 - September 1 2008
Proposed Method of Entry (Vessel/Plane): Vessel. NOAA ship HIIALAKAI
Proposed Locations: Shallow water habitat (<100m) around Necker, Nihoa, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan, Lisianski, Pearl & Hermes Reef, Midway, Kure

Estimated number of individuals (including Applicant) to be covered under this permit: 5
Estimated number of days in the Monument: 54

Description of proposed activities: (complete these sentences):

a.) The proposed activity would…

Quantify the movements of top predators (sharks and large fishes) in the NWHI to provide empirical data required for management.

b.) To accomplish this activity we would ….

This project is a continuing effort to equip top predators (sharks and large fishes) with electronic tags, and monitor their movements using acoustic receivers (deployed on the sea floor) and satellites. Sharks and fishes are captured using handlines and 10 hook bottom-set lines, restrained alongside a small boat during transmitter attachment and then released. Acoustic receivers are deployed and recovered by SCUBA divers, and listen year-round for predators equipped with acoustic tags.

c.) This activity would help the Monument by …

The purpose of our research is to provide Monument managers with empirical data on top predator movement patterns and spawning habitats in Monument waters. This information is vital for selecting appropriate management strategies for these ecologically important animals.

Other information or background: Our research has minimal impact on monument resources. Sharks and fishes are captured, tagged and released at their capture locations. Our listening stations (acoustic receiver + moorings) are designed to have minimal substrate impact and leave nothing behind when they are removed. We are working with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to seek guidance on how to mitigate potential cultural impacts associated with our research.